

October 4th, 2017 Board of Health
Division of Substance Abuse and Prevention
Substance Abuse Coordinator

On August 28th, 2017 Lainnie Emond started as the Substance Abuse Coordinator for the City of Lowell. This position continues to support initiatives and programs that are addressing the opioid epidemic within the city, including, but not limited to, first responders, direct care programs, and supports for families and loved ones. This first major task for this position is to complete an assessment of the resources available for the substance use community and loved ones.

Initiatives:

- Beginning stages of city-wide assessment substance abuse services questionnaire development (qualitative and quantitative information gathering)
- Identifying and making connections with service that will be interviewed as part of the city-wide assessment

Attended informational trainings to build upon knowledge and skill set needed to address the opioid epidemic:

- September 5th – 8th attended the Harold Roger's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program National Meeting in Washington DC, along with representation from the Lowell Police Department
- September 12th attended The Opioid Crisis in Massachusetts: Policy and Review, held by the City of Lawrence

Attended and partook in events held within the city that focused on awareness of the opioid epidemic:

- August 31st attended International Overdose Awareness Day hosted by the Lowell Health and Human Services Department, Lowell Police Department, and Lowell Fire Department
- September 14th attended Hidden in Plain Sight at Lowell General Hospital Saints Campus
- September 18th attended a press conference held by the Greater Lowell Health Alliance at the Chelmsford Police Department
- September 19th attended the Lowell House, Inc. Recovery Breakfast
- September 21st attended Lowell General Hospital's Community Care Task Force Meeting

Attended meetings to build upon relationships, strengthen understanding of local resources, and facilitate open communication regarding needs areas for the substance use community:

- September 12th met with Life Connections Center, along with Partnership for Success (PFS) and Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaboration (MOAPC) Coordinators
- September 13th met with Project Care to obtain a greater understanding of successes and obstacles
- September 13th met with representatives from Trinity EMS to review data and discuss Trinity's initiatives in the opioid epidemic in Greater Lowell

Upcoming meetings that the time of the writing:

- MOAPC/SAPC partners meeting to be held on September 26th at 192 Appleton Street, Lowell at Life Connections Outreach
- PFS Task Force Meeting to be held on September 27th at Lowell High School
- GLHA Substance Use and Prevention Meeting to be held on October 3rd at Lowell General Hospital Saints Campus, 1st Floor Conference Room